

ABSOLUTE RATING: Excellent
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Good

Number of Elementary schools with students like ours: 68.

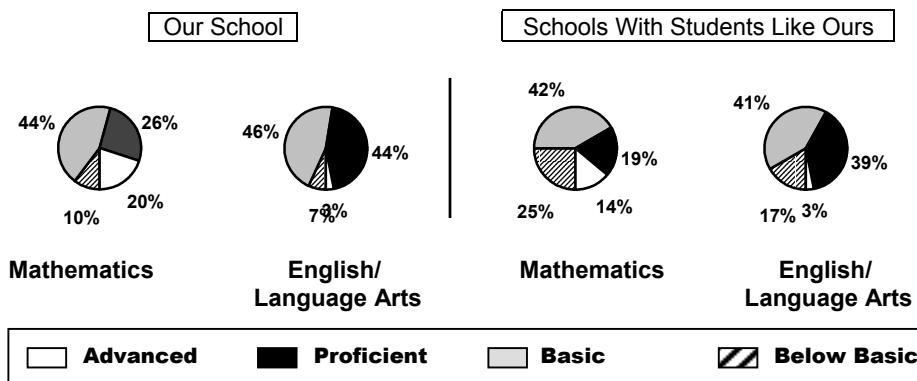
The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from average to excellent. For improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.

RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD



(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

Science scores are to be reported on the 2004 School Report Card. Social studies scores are to be reported on the 2005 School Report Card.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR ABOVE ON THE PACT				
Student Group	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
All students (n=403)	93.1	89.6	N/A	N/A
Students with disabilities other than Speech (n=24)	N/A	N/A		
Students without disabilities (n=378)	93.9	90.5		
Gender				
Male (n=215)	92.6	91.7		
Female (n=187)	94.1	87.2		
Ethnic Group				
African American (n=84)	86.9	88.1		
Hispanic (n=3)	N/A	N/A		
White (n=315)	94.9	90.2		
Other (n=N/A)	N/A	N/A		
Lunch Status Group				
Free/reduced-price Lunch (n=145)	91	86.3		
Pay for lunch (n=257)	94.6	91.4		

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Elementary School
SCHOOL				
• Dollars spent per student	\$4,195	N/A	\$5,227	\$5,347
• Prime instructional time	90.2%	Down from 91.4%	90.2%	90.2%
• Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	21.5 to 1	N/A	19.7 to 1	18.7 to 1
STUDENTS (n=809)				
• Attendance Rate	96.5%	Down from 96.8%	96.2%	96.2%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	1.7%	N/A	2.7%	4.1%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (math) off grade level	2.2%	N/A	1.9%	3.1%
• First graders who attended full day kindergarten	92.8%	Up from 86.9%	95.3%	96.3%
• Meeting grade 1 and 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Retention rate	4.1%	Down from 4.2%	2.9%	3.6%
TEACHERS (n=48)				
• Professional Development days per teacher	7.2 Days	Up from 6.5	8.1 Days	7.6 days
• Attendance Rate	94.3%	Down from 95.4%	95.5%	95.1%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	31.3%	Up from 25.5%	50.5%	47.7%
• Continuing contract teachers	93.8%	Up from 91.7%	85.8%	83.8%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	0%	No change	0%	0.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	93.3%	Up from 91.6%	88%	87.2%
• Average teacher salary	\$35,883	Up 5.2%	\$38,286	\$37,520

SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Elementary School
SCHOOL				
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	67.2%	N/A	65.1%	65.3%
• Principal's years at the school	2	N/A	3.8	4.0
• Parents attending conferences	99%	N/A	98.2%	95.6%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Good	Good
STUDENTS				
• On academic plans	N/A	N/A	36.6%	43.1%
• On academic probation	N/A	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Older than usual for grade	3.1%	Up from 1.2%	0.8%	1.1%
• Suspended or expelled	0	N/A	1	1
• Gifted and talented	15.6%	Up from 13.7%	16.7%	11.5%
• With disabilities other than speech	5.5%	Up from 5.2%	8.1%	8.4%



PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Merriwether Elementary School is challenged daily with an enrollment of approximately 850 students. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of our students. As we meet the needs of the total child, we continually focus on the academic challenges as well as the social and developmental issues prevalent with elementary-aged students. Through an active Character Education program, as well as career awareness activities, children learn beneficial life skills necessary to function in society.

We are firm believers in both Saxon Math and Phonics programs that have continually proven to accomplish the fundamental education needs based on our current PACT scores. The implementation of a Reading Renaissance program has also proven very beneficial to improving our students' reading comprehension.

In conclusion, this year, in addition to educational challenges, we also faced a formidable physical challenge with the addition of 20 new classrooms and the renovation of several existing classrooms. Our focus never faltered as our faculty and staff, joined by the support of our parents and community, allowed us to fulfill our school motto of "Making a Difference".

Gene Huiet, Principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	100.0	88.7	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	97.6	94.3	
Satisfied with home-school relations	97.6	91.0	

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

1901008

Merriwether Elementary
565 Spring Haven Road
North Augusta, SC 29860

Grades K-5 Elementary School

Enrollment: 809 Students

Principal

Gene G. Huiet 803-279-9993

Superintendent

Dr. Sharon W. Keesley 803-275-4601

Board Chair

Bradley D. Covar 803-637-6689

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School
Report Card

2001

School Grade:
Excellent

South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at
www.myschools.com